1.081.718 Total for the week

Get Rid of the Humbug!

There is no more reason why the gathering of information regarding the weather should be intrusted to army officers and en listed men than there is for turning over to the military establishment the work of collecting crop statistics or despatching letters and newspapers. The Weather Bureau has no natural connection with the army, and there is no propriety whatever in putting t

For military purposes instruction in signalling is necessary, and doubtless there ought to be a few officers in the army who make a specialty of the business; but they can be and should be detailed from the line for limited terms. The knowledge of signalling, easily acquired, would thus be spread through the service, and there would be no necessity for a costly separate corps, with fuss-and-feathers General at its head. A Captain, or a Lieutenant even, would do as well, and better, for the place would not be so extraordinarily tempting that he would be likely to neglect his duties to manufacture influence to secure his retention in it. The expenses of signal instruction, also, would be so small that there would be no opportunities for plunder like those which Howgarn

improved. As it is now, however, the place of Chies Signal Officer is one of the softest in the army, and therefore Gen. W. B. HAZEN, who has always had a conspicuous liking for feather-bed case and security, worked himself into it. He had no special fitness for the duty, and no scientific acquirements which justifled the selection of him. Gen MYER, whom he succeeded, had made the Signal Service, and because it had proved valuable in the civil war high rank was given him, with high pay, as its chief. But HAZEN was put in after Myen's death only that he might be promoted to be a Brigadier-General, live in Washington, have an easy time, and escape rough duty on the frontier There was no other reason for selecting him. His appointment was a gross piece of favoritism on the part of the Fraudulent HAYPS. A man less entitled to such a plum could hardly have been found in the army where his reputation is rather that of an Oily Gammon than a brave and accomplished soldier or a man of solid acquirements and vigor of character.

Once at the head of the Signal Corps HAZEN'S interest was to magnify his importance, and keep the corps of such large proportions that it would seem appropriate to put a general officer in charge of the work. Yet, in truth, that work is really directed and done by six Second Lieutenants and a few non-commissioned officers and enlisted men

HAZEN knows very well that if the Weather Bureau is separated from the military part of the Signal Corps's work, there will be comparaticity little left, and that little will not command attention outside of the army. It is the Weather Bureau which keeps the concern before the public.

HAZEN has therefore manouvred in all directions to prevent the separation, and has done it in a way so discreditable that, whether the Weather Bureau is taken from the Signal Corps or not, he ought to be displaced as Chief Signal Officer at once, and a court of inquiry ordered in his case. He has played the old trick of working up and manufacturing opinions in his favor in a manner to make them appear spontaneous utterances of public bodies and the public press. Officers of the corps have been set to do that fraudulent business.

Fortunately, he has been exposed, and the proofs of his trickery have been furnished: but it was obvious what he was up to before Mr. Beltzhooven prepared his speech and gathered the criminating letters and documents. There never was any public demand for the retention of the Weather Bureau as part of a military corps. Nobody cared to keep it there except HAZEN and those whose bread and butter or social ease would have been affected by its transfer to a civil depart. ment, where it belongs. Of course the resolutions passed praising Hazen and declaring the necessity for military control of the weather service, and the newspaper articles to the same effect, were the work of either HAZEN or his detailed subordinates.

By all means, turn the Weather Bureau over to a scientific and practical corps of civilians, and employ no one in it who does not actually work at the business, who is not specially fitted for it, and who is not actually needed. Then establish a school for instruction in military signalling with such of the Second Lieutenants now in charge as wish to remain in the army, and send officers to the school for training during limited periods. The humbur of keeping a purely ornamental Brigadier-General at the head of the Signal Corps is too absurd to be longer tolerated. There is no earthly reason why HAZEN should be where he is, except that he is a man who covets a soft place.

The Great Methodist Silver Mine.

"For the love of money," saith the Apostle PAUL, in his first epistle to TIMOTHY, "Is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of GoD, fiee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

These words of St. PAUL and the truths they convey are often brought to our minds. but they have a special application to the

story we now proceed to relate.

In the summer of 1878 the President of the East Tennessee Wesleyan University, the Rev. John F. Spence, D. D., was gratified to find that Col. H. G. BIXBY, a Calffornian mining promoter and philanthropist, being a bachelor with no family, had conceived the idea of endowing that Methodist institution with the munificent sum of two or three hundred thousand dollars, payable in mining shares. The Rev. Dr. SPENCE brought the philanthropist to the Rev. Dr. NEWMAN of this city, be being distinguished alike as a financier, a preacher, and a friend of Gen. GRANT; in fact, as a man wise as a serpent in the affairs of this world There also accompanied him Prof. L. H. CALDWELL, holding the chair of chemistry and mineralogy in the Methodist college. Previously to coming to New York, it seems the three had consulted with Bishop SIMPsow, who asked them to lay their project be fore Dr. NEWMAN, he having great confidence in the financial astuteness of the New York

What the philanthropist proposed wa that he would give the university 15,000 shares of stock for its endowment, provided the machinery of the Methodist Church was ed to work off the rest of the shares in a used to work off the rest of the was called

originally the Isabella Mining and Milling Company, and it had been incorporated in the State of California with the usual nominal capital of ten millions of dollars, divided into 100,000 shares of \$100 each. It was described as "a consolidation of eight very rich silver mines near Globe City, Arizona." Prof. CALDWELL, as a mineralogist, vouched for the truth of all that was claimed for it. Untold wealth was there, only waiting for capital to get it out. Some encumbrances were on the property, Col. BIXBY acknowledged, and \$50,000 was needed to put the mine in working order. His proposition was to place the shares on the market at ten dollars each, but a certain proportion of them were to be reserved for "first comers," a little inside Ring, in fact, who were to be allowed to come in on the "ground floor" at five dollars a

Desiring to benefit the cause of Methodist education, the Rev. Dr. NEWMAN stepped in on the ground floor with an investment of \$1,000. Having confidence in his business judgment, Bishop SIMPSON followed with \$600. The Rev. C. H. FOWLER, D. D., LL. D., and the Rev. W. H. DE Puy, D. D., the editors of the Christian Advocate, the official Methodist paper in this city, were also let in on the ground floor, and the clerical gentlemen enerally at the Methodist Book Concern

805 Broadway, chipped in likewise. Under the heading of "A Noble Deed," the Christian Admocate editorially called attention to the project and to an advertisement signed by the President of the East Tennessee University, calling for purchasers of 1,000 shares at \$10 a share "in one of the richest and most desirable silver mines in the world." On the speculation the Rev. President bestowed a first rate puff as follows

"The stock is believed, after thorough investigation by disinterested experts and the most careful judges, to be worth more than double the amount asked for it; but a lim-ited quantity is placed on the market at this low rate (\$10 per share, par value \$10,000) for the purpose of raising funds to aid in paying for an exceedingly valuable mill, to be used at once in reducing theore, more than six hundred tons of which have already been quarried from the mines and are ready for the mills. Dividends on the amount of at least five per cent are expected by Nov. 1, and five per cent monthly thereafter. Those desiring to aid the university and at the same time make a safe an quick paying investment should make immediate appli cation to the undersigned, at 805 Broadway, New York.

"The mines have been developed," said the editors of the Christian Advocate, "beyond the point of contingency concerning their almost unprecedented wealth in rich, accessible, free-milling silver ore, and large quantitles of ore, worth from \$200 to \$3,000 per ton, have been mined. The mills will be paying monthly dividends by next Novem ber." And they rounded off their little puff

"Col. Bixar whose name, character, and ability ar of the highest order among the miners of California and Nevada, has given the university, in addition to the en-dowment (which will be ample—amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars), some stock with which the trus-tees can meet their share of the cost of completing the mills and of starting the works. Bishop Sursson, Dr. KWWAN, and other friends of the university have do a good thing for the university in purchasing some of their stock; and, we doubt not, have also done a bette thing for themselves. We congratulate Kas Veslevan University, soon to be named Bixby Univer ity-an honor, however, which Col. Bixsy declines to coupt before the trustees have actually received the bullion.' We know several other achools for which w rave an equally valuable friend."

The 1,000 shares offered, it will be observed xere put at \$10 each, and nothing was said about the ground floor stock, at \$5 a share held by the editors. In a later number of the Christian Advocate appeared an open letter from Prof. CALDWELL, which was also discributed by the Methodist Book Concern's machinery, giving the most glowing account of the mine after long examination:

"I can see no reason why dividends may not be deelared in November next, unless there occur some break part of the machinery now under way might be delayed for a few days."

So heralded, so commended, and so engineered, of course the Methodists bit freely at the bait offered in the glittering Isabella mine shares. Col. BIXBY, by his philanthropy and by provoking their greed, had enlisted in the work of getting rid of the stock the men who run the ecclesiastical and business machinery of the Church. The preachers scraped together money to buy at \$10 each shares which the clerical promoters got at the ground floor price of \$5, and presiding was that a large sum was raked in

But November came, and the promised dividend of fifty cents a share was not declared. A year passed by, and there were no dividends. A committee went to Arizona to investigate the property, and as the result of their inquiries an adjoining mine was bought for \$25,000. The company was reorganized under the name of the Globe City Mining Company; enough preferred stock was issued to pay for the property, and the holders of the Isabella shares received common stock, share for share, in the new concern. The additional mine purchased for \$25,000 is now regarded as the richest asset of the great enterprise, which started with a capital of ten millions. Something, too, may be got out of a mill in the Isabelia, which cost \$40,000. The bowels of the earth have not yielded the promised bullion.

A Major Sisson of Chicago, who is described as "an expert and particular friend of Dr. Fowler," was sent out to inspect the property, and he advised extensive improvements, which required more money. cordingly, Dr. NEWMAN put up \$1,000 additional. There was trouble about the management of the mill, and finally in March last all work on the mine was abandoned. It was given up as a worthless undertaking!

The truth is, Col. BIXBY's Isabella mine was never worth anything. In the opinion of Dr. NEWMAN it was "salted" before the mineralogical professor, CALDWELL, visited it. Mr. A. W. HAMMOND, who knows all bout it, reports as follows:

"The Isabella mine was located, I think, in 1877, by Col. Bizzy. A little 'pot hole,' twenty or thirty feet deep, was dug and baby drifts run, and that ended the development of this 'mine.' The hole was not so deep as to shade a man from the sun if he stood upright in it When Bixay came East he brought the Isabella Mining when Size came East he brought the Isabella Siming Company in his satched. The next time we saw him in Globe City he had brought Prof. Calbwall out to act as expert. The people in Globe City told the Professor plainly that the mine was worthless. He talked with me about it, and I told him the same thing. Nevertheless it seems that he reported it a splendid property, and the stock was marketed, as has already been stated. The sale of the stock was not merely confined to the preach case of the stock was not merely connect to the presch-ers. Business men of proved sagacity were bitten right and left. One of the big jewellers in this city is said to have traded a lot of diamonds for the stock. When Col. Bixar first returned to Globe City he had a regular headlight stone in his shirt bosom. When he first came there he was as poor as a church mouse and not at all aroud."

not at all proud." As to how many the victims were we get a hint from a remark of one of them, the son of the Rev. Mr. Russell, a Methodist preacher. His stock certificate is numbered 450. That means, said the reporter, at least 450 victims of the scheme:

" 'Four hundred and fifty!' exclaimed Mr. Russant. My dear sir, that number doesn't begin to count them.
They are legion. I was among the first purchasers. A whole army came after me."

Who is most responsible for the swindle? This is the question that agitates Methodist circles. The clerical promoters toss the burden from the shoulders of one to another. But really they are all in the same boat. They used their influence to sell to other preachers at \$10 a share stock they got themselves at \$5 a | there has been much encouragement for such share; and they urged the purchase both as a an industry; but already its foundations wonderfully rich investment and as a means of helping the cause of Methodist education.

There seems to have been some unloading from the inside.

It is asserted by Mr. RUSSELL, above mentioned, that there was "a base and scandalous use of the organization of our denomination in forcing the rank and file of our ministers to put their hard-earned savings into this detestable swindle." But listen to his indignant exposition:

listen to his indignant exposition:

"The form of government of the Methodist Episcopal Church invests the presiding elders with a terrible power over the destinies of a large majority of the preachers. In each Conference the Bishop, with three or four of the presiding elders, forms what is called the 'cabinet.' The appointments to pastorates, which are made at stated intervals by the cabinet, usually follow out the recommendations of the presiding elders, each furnishing the Bishop with a 'salet' for his own district. Kineteen twentieths of the preachers do not know whether the next appointment will take them to a fat pastorate, with a \$2,500 salary and a parsonage thrown on or send them out to Murderer's (ilen or Skunk's Holpastorate, with a \$2,500 salary and a parsonage thrown in, or send them out to Murderer's Glen or Skunk's Hollow at a salary of \$150 s year. The Rev. Mr. Graves was for four years a presiding elder in the New York East Conference. He was very active in placing the Isabella stock on the market. Of course he did not say, 'Rev. Mr. So-and-so, you must take some stock,' or 'You must lend me money.' It was, 'My dear brother, this is a very worthy object. Bishop Sturson and Dr. Nawaar and all the leading men of the Church are taking stock in order to help along the cause of that dear institution in the South, and it seems to me as if we ought to do something. I am credibly informed that the ought to do something. I am credibly informed that the investment is a safe one and promises large profits. Mr. Connell, Mr. Stout, and Gen. First are warm endorsers of the enterprise, and if you were to put a few hundred dol lars into the enterprise I know you would not regret it. A political assessment, so to speak, was levied upon the \$200 or \$300 they had managed to save out of the pit ances of salaries which had been paid them."

The Rev. Mr. GRAVES now denies that he made such a use of his place, but a few days

ago he said to a reporter: "I never positively advised any one to put his mone into the swindle, but when asked my opinion I have repeated what I was told by Dr. Srancz and Prof. Calif wall and Dr. Fowler. I have pointed to the article it the Christian Advocate, and have said (as I certainly thought) that it must, with such backing, be a safe and good investment. On these representations people, I am very, very sorry to say, have gone in."

No wonder he is sorry. He certainly gave very bad advice positive or otherwise, and used his influence as a presiding elder to an ill purpose.

But what shall we say of the cierical editors of the Christian Advocate? They puffed the swindle, having been let in on the ground floor. Because the Methodist Church had put them at the head of its newspaper organ their favor was purchased, and the Christian Advocate was used to victimize Methodists in all parts of the country—to push the sale of shares at \$10 which the editors got for \$5 or nothing at all. Even after the Isabella mine had proved worthless, the readers of the Christian Advocate were not warned. That religious paper held its peace, and many more gudgeons were caught. And Dr. Fow-LER. according to Dr. NEWMAN, sold his

stock, and made money out of it! Is not a revival of good morals absolutely necessary among Methodist editors and pre-

siding elders? We have only to add that the name of th East Tennessee Wesleyan University has not yet been changed to the Bixby University Indeed, the philanthropic Col. BIXBY seems to have disappeared from the scene.

Æsthetic Shams.

The present will be known as an age of col ectors. The taste for bric-à-brac, antiques and curiosities, formerly confined to prince and a few connoisseurs here and there, is nov very general. In every civilized country everything that is rare or difficult to pro cure has its admirers, who make it their business and pleasure to collect specimens, to preserve them, and show them to their friends. The fashion is a useful one for if nothing is more sad than the loss for want of care of a beautiful piece of work, on which the labor and thought of some man above the common have been ex pended, it follows that he who charge nimself with the preservation of such objects is a public benefactor. This is especially true in view of the extension of he modern system of manufacturing by machinery. If it goes on, pretty soon no more hand-made work of good quality will be produced. In many cases it is already incumbent upon us to preserve what we have, as no more of the same kind can be obtained; either the old processes are forgotten hand-made out of existence; or a falling off in taste or in skill, very often consequent on mere familiarity with machine-made work in other kinds, has taken place. Occasionally, too, an increased facility in working has brought about a debasement of taste in a manufacture. Thus the earlier potteries of China and Corea have more artistic value than the clever productions of modern Japanese workers; and so, too, the somewhat coarse Venetian woodcuts of the seventeenth century are finer as works of art than the best fac-simile engraving of to-day. It is well, therefore, to follow the advice of the apostle, and "hold fast to that which is good " in regard to objects of art as well as in other things. The world cannot afford to lose any work into which a man has put his honest endeavor to do well and his desire to produce something beautiful.

But, unhapplly, the wish to possess rarities of this sort has created an industry which is prospering and growing greater day by day: that of the fabrication of false antiques and of copies which are put forward as originals. Thus a man may pay five hundred dollars for what he supposes is an enamel of the sixteenth or seventeenth century, and find afterward that it was made but a year or two ago, and cost the enterprising manufacturer five dollars. Or he may think that a coin bought from a dealer was in circulation in the time of the CESARS, while it may have been made in an electrotyper's bath here in New York. The growth of this trade is likely to interfere seriously with real industrial progress, as well by drawing the most capable workmen of our times away from their legitimate employments as by creating a distrust of the reality of everything that pretends to have either archeological or ar-

tistic value. Paris is the headquarters of this nefarious traffic; it is the chief mart for counterfeits, electrotypes, veneers; for things patched up, retouched, and stuck together. Statues, furniture, falence, offensive and defensive arms, vases of Sèvres, etchings of REMBRANDT, old English silverware, Tanagra statuettes, even modern work by celebrated masters, such as DELACROIX and COROT, are imitated sometimes with consummate skill. It is in Paris that they invented " the dust of ages," which is blown with small bellows into worm holes bored with an auger. It is in Paris that they make the most deceitful imitations of old Eastern rugs, of Gothic wood carv-

ings, of Venetian stamped leather. But the Parisians have by no means a moflopoly of the business. English manufac-turers turn out vases of Sèvres rose, and produce the old pdte tendre by the wholesale. Egyptian antiquities are manufactured by the Bedouins, and scraps of old earthenware from the Campagna of Rome are painted in the Eternal City with figures in the manner of the ancients, burnt anew, and sold as the veritable work of Greeco-Roman artists.

In this country it is only of late years that have been laid here. In the bric-à-brac

old piece of furniture with modern carvings in wood, or perhaps electrotype reproduc-tions of old metal work fastened on. There are electrotypers who can handle their batteries and baths so skilfully that they can copy almost any object in metal with such perfection that all ordinary tests will fall in etecting the fraud. Not only the form and color of the object, but its specific gravity. its density, its hardness, the ring which it gives when struck, can all be faithfully copied. Luckily, those men are few, and their services are in demand for more hon-

orable work. The greater number of the artistic frauds that are practised in this country are no difficult of detection. Their object generally is to pass machine work off for hand work at a high figure. Thus machine-made embroideries, copied from good Eastern designs, are sometimes taken up with a little hand work, are frayed and carefully darned in places, or are purposely soiled to give them a look of age. Japanese antiques are likewise manufactured here on a considerable scale. Small ornamental pieces of metal work or carvings in wood or ivory, lacquer plaques, and so forth, are imported from Japan in quantities, and fastened on to cabinets made in this country of common woods, the whole being then sold as Japanese. Even respect able dealers keep these wares, but acknowledge their true character when questioned. In Japan itself the more famous old wares of the country are regularly counterfeited for the American market. Thus the cream-colored pottery commonly sold under the name of Satsuma ware is all false, and there is no famous ware of any part of Japan that is not counterfeited in some other province Of late, too, certain dealers have got into the habit of bringing American or European materials into Japan, there to be worked up into the articles that the natives best know how to fabricate. Those are then imported and find sale here. Tobacco pouches, medicine cases, knife sheaths, will often be found of old Dutch or Cordovan stamped leather, too rotten, perhaps, for other use, ornamented with gilt and silvered figures in Japan and

attached to some real Japanese article. On the other hand, articles of undoubted authenticity are not uncommonly broken up and destroyed to enrich some modern piece of work with their ruins. The tarnished silver galloon ripped from old Spanish or Italian vestments has added to the splendors of the hangings that are displayed by more than one of our millionaires. Daghestan and Persian rugs, which in another generation or two would be priceless, are ruthlessly cut up for chair backs and sofa covers This is a result of the mania for old things which genuine collectors are the first to con-

Perhaps, after all, more harm, is wrough by confessed imitations than by fraudulent ones, which to be successful must be pretty good. The wretched machine work in faded colors in imitation of antique embroidery which is imported from France and German is more exasperating than the American Cretan and American-Persian work we have been describing. There are imitations of stamped leather which have none of the qualities that make the real thing valuable. There has even just begun to be made an imitation of stained glass in celluloid paper, which is more abominable, if possible, than the worst that our unartistic

glass stainers can produce. People who buy such work have, of course only themselves to blame; but in many cases it is difficult for one not acquainted with the facts to distinguish the genuine from the imitative work if the dealer does not take the trouble to point out the difference. In the matter of rehabilitated antiques, it is very hard to draw the line at which the renovating process should stop. It would perhaps be safe to lay down the rule that only so much should be done to a piece of furniture, or the like, as is necessary to keep it in a useful condition, and that the patches or the new portions should show distinctly. Nothing should be added as ornament, nor should any attempt be made at "artistic restoration." It is very seldom allowable to make over old material into entirely new shapes, and, generally past usefulness is to preserve it, for whatever artistic qualities it may have, exactly in the state in which it is. In regard to the counterfeits prepared in

other countries and sold here in large number, buyers cannot be too wary. Even dealers who have all their lives made a specialty of some one thing are sometimes taken in Of course, when an article is so nearly like the original as this, it is also of nearly equal artistic value. But the archeological value of an object is often much more than its artistic value. The best rule for those who are not experts is to buy only what is beautiful and only from dealers of reputation. They will then run as little risk as possible, and even if they be mistaken as to the authenticity of their purchase they will be consoled by its intrinsic merit. A large number of counterfeits are, however, known and classified. There are marks by which experts may tell the real old Sevres ware from the imitations of the last century; the presence of certain metallic colors and the use of certain processes of burnishing the gilding are often sufficient to point out the false ware. But manufacturers of to-day know these marks as well as any connoisseur, and against them all such signs would be useless. In the case of a Japanese product, it is next to impossible, even when the piece is marked and no fraud is intended, to place it either as to age or locality of manufacture. The same man may change his trade mark three or four times in his life; each time he may sell or give his old trade name to whom he pleases; and though living in one province, he may use the name of another as his trade mark. Then, in Japan, process of manufacture never become so settled as they are with us, and this adds to the difficulty of classifying the products. Thus Kaga ware may be made in Kloto, and Banko ware, which is supposed to be made by pinching the clay between the finger and thumb, may be simulated by work thrown on the wheel But if a man buys a beautiful piece of work, and pays no more for it than he can afford, he need not care very much in what out-of-

the-way Japanese village it was made. The best plan to prevent artistic counterfeiting in the future would undoubtedly be to refuse to buy manifest imitations of any sort, and to encourage the best artists to produce original works.

Secretary Lincoln and the Jobbers.

As this is the last opportunity that the traffickers in legislation will have to bargain for a big River and Harbor appropriation, it is not surprising that they make the effort n spite of the fact that no estimates were made for this service in the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury. The reason was that the money voted for the current iscal year is largely in excess of any probableexpenditure for two years to come.

That omission stirred the wrath of the jobbers. Mr. Page had a resolution passed at the opening of the session, calling upon the stary of War for specific and for general

information as to the action of the departnent in the whole matter.

Mr. LINCOLN'S answer was a complete exposure of the logrolling system by which large appropriations for worthless objects have been constantly made in exchange for votes. If greenbacks had been paid down, the bribery of Congressmen could not be more patent than under this method of buying votes.

The Secretary of War also reported that the unexpended balances in the Treasury Dec. 31, 1882, to the credit of rivers and har oors amounted to the enormous sum o \$16,192,588.05.

The Protection of Stonecutters A Nov. elty in New York Legislation.

A bill in relation to the use of cut and dressed stone in the construction or repair of public works or buildings by or on behalf of municipal corporations, has been intro duced into the Assembly by Mr. QUINN o this city.

It is intended to prohibit the use of any cut and dressed stone on public works other than the streets, except such stone " as shall be cut and dressed within this State at or near the place where the same is to be used." Any public officer or agent who violate this prohibition is to be punishable as a criminal, and any contract made in disregard of the provisions of the bill is to be deemed

If a private citizen wants to build a stone house in the State of New York, he may have the stone cut and dressed wherever he can get the work done most cheaply.

A town or city under the same circum stances will not enjoy the same liberty if Mr. Quinn's bill becomes a law. Even though it might be possible to do the cutting and dressing near the quarry for one-tenth of the cost at the place of building, a municipal corporation would have to pay ten times as much as was really necessary, in order to comply with the requirement of the statute.

The increased cost must come out o the pockets of the people who pay taxes. Perhaps they are willing to bear the additional burden, for the sake of giving more employment to stonecutters within the limits of the State.

If the principle involved in Mr. QUINN' bill is sound, it might logically be extended For example, we might prohibit the use of any flour in public charitable and reformatory institutions except such as had been ground at mills within the State and at or near the place of consumption. So, also, the purchase of any pork except such as was grewn and barrelled in New York might be forbidden. The militia could be clothed with uniforms made only by New York tailors Indeed, the Legislature might go even further and declare that the wool in the uniforms should be shorn only from New York sheep.

It will be seen that Mr. QUINN has struck out on a path which may lead to many othe novelties in legislation.

There was another sensation at the hearing in the case of the alleged murderers in Dublin yesterday. JAMES CARRY, one of the prisoners. turned State's evidence, and his story was as startling as that told by KAVANAGH, the carman a few days ago. Carey's testimony supports the opinion that the conspirators had their eyes fixed upon more victims than BURKE and CAVENDISH, who fell by their knives in Phonix Park. There was, Carry says, a plot to murder Mr. FORSTER, whose footsteps were logged for one whole day by an assassin, who found no opportunity to strike. There was also a plot against the life of Earl Cowper. The details of Carey's story are full of the most dramatic interest. Considering the nature of the charges against them and the startling character of the testimony, the conduct of the prisoners seems most singular. On the first day they laughed aloud when the charges were read to them. Yesterday they hissed at CARRY when he went upon the witness stand, and at one point in his testimony according to the cable news, they broke into laughter. Everything about this case tends to make it one of the most remarkable in the history of crime.

Western New York is now suffering from floods. Railroad trains there have been stopped by washouts, and bridges have been swept away. Under the influence of the rain and the high temperature, the accumulated snow is melting swiftly on the treeless hillsides and pouring in muddy torrents into the creeks and rivers, thus repeating on a smaller scale the costly lesson of the Ohio flood. How many more such lessons shall we need?

One of the most dreadful disasters among the many which we have had to record since the beginning of this eventful year is the flood ing of a coal mine in Illinois on Friday, by which, it is believed, seventy men lost the lives. The heavy rains and the rapid melting deep snows that had fallen in that region transformed the prairie in which the mine is situated into a shallow lake. Without any warning a hole opened in the ground, letting the water into the mine beneath, and most of the miners had not time to escape be fore the whole mine was flooded to the roof. It is said that a similar break occurred in the same place some years ago. If that is so there should be an inquiry to determine whether the present disaster might not have been prevented. Miners have already too many perils to encounter in their dungeon life below ground, and they ought to be secured, if possible, against such an accident as this.

The cold wave that is said to be sweeping from the Northwest will be welcomed in place of the rain and fog that have held New York in their uncomfortable embrace for nearly

a week past. Some curious reflections are suggested by Georgia's recent celebration of the sesqui-cen tennial anniversary of the founding of her chief city. While OGLETHORPE is now in the eyes of all Goorgians as the first permanent settler under English authority, some of those who are versed in history have been urging that VERBAZZANO, a Florentine traveller, landed on the coast in 1525, more than two hundred years before OGLETHORPE, more than fourscore years before the settlement at Jamestown, and only thirty-three after the discovery of the New World by COLUMBUS. Still, since VERBAZZANO is alleged to have been speedily killed and eaten by savages, he cannot count as a founder. while Dr Soro, who is said to have wandered within the boundaries of the present State, is also to be considered only a premature visitor. OGLETHORPE is entitled to reverence as the true father of Georgia, and every fifty years should be permitted to land by proxy at Savannah, and be welcomed by To-Mo-CHI-CHI and his Yamacraws.

Letter writing is deemed a virtue on the part of far Western settlers, and the esteem with which a new resident is regarded is meas ured to a degree by the number of encouraging letters that he writes to Eastern friends to secure immigration. The Yankton Dakotian says that five years ago not over 10,000 Dakotians were engaged in writing letters and influencing the popular mind, and since that time the population has been increasing annually at the rate of forty per cent. It is hoped that enough letters will be written this year to increase the population 120,000,

The annual dinner of the Harvard Club of The annual minner of the Harvard Club of this city will take place at Delmonico's on Pob. 21, at 6% F. M. All graduates of Harvard will learn with pleas-use that the Rev. A. F. Psabody will be present. Presi-dent Ellot, Prof. Pierre, and others connected with the university are also expected. PRESERVE OUR PORESTS!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Special thanks are due to THE SUN for its zealous ad vocacy of the preservation of the forests of the State. The cutting down of the wood in times east around the head waters of our rivers an their tributaries has already brought upon us great evils, and still greater are in store unless the work of destruction stops. I have known he principal rivers of the State by persona observation for nearly sixty years. In that period they have undergone a complete change in regard to their usual volume of water and

he sudden outbreak of disastrous floods.

When I first knew the Genesee River it was s'eady flowing stream. Of course it had its noderate spring freshets, but it very seldom oared throughstochester like a cataract, as it often does now; nor did it dry up in summer whereas, for years past, it usually obbs away in July and August till a child can walk across the orink of the falls. The same is true of the Mohawk Sixty yours ago when the central coun ties were well wooded, and even later, the Mobawk maintained a remarkably uniform volume of water at all seasons. Now a long, heavy rain among its tributaries will cause it to rise till the villages and farms and railroad tracks of the Mohawk Valley are completely sub-merged. On the other hand, in a rather dry summer, teams are safely driven across its channel. Very much the same can be said of the Oswego River and the Black River, and especially the Hudson and the numerous stream that feed it above Troy.

.The changes in these rivers, which have brought in their train so much damage to property and business, are owing in large me to the cutting away of the wood along their borders and around the fountains whence their tributaries rise. THE SUN does well to call attention to this work of destruction and its dis astrous consequences. Let us, at all events, preserve the Adirondacks and their noble for ests. Years ago I put to Gov. Seymour the question. What shall be done with the Adirondacks?" "Preserve them for a water supply." was his prompt answer.

An OLD CITIZEN.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

The Republicans to Go Out of Power With-

out Lightening the Burden of Taxation. WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 .- There are a few Republican leaders who realize that the party in Congress, by adjourning without repealing the internal tax, will make a great mistake, and thereby, some think, neutralize any advantage expected from their management of the tariff question. The Committee on Ways and Means have from the start refused to consider the juestion favorably, although influential mempers have tried to have them do so repeatedly as the right end to begin at in considering th revenue question. Judge Kelley makes no dis guise of his views on the subject, and freely declares that the golden opportunity has been suffered to pass unimproved. Robeson, Keifer, Page & Co. have been too

intent on obtaining appropriations to pay attention to the cry of the people for relief from taxation. The present Congress was constituted and organized chiefly for raids on the Treasury, not for considering the wants of the country. Although no time can be found to the odious and unnecessary war taxes, there is plenty to pass a seven-million Harbor and River Appropriation bill, which is demanded by no public necessity, and to vote away the public money by the tens of millions at the beck of Chandler, Robeson, and Roach and other combinations for plunder to say nothing of the iniquities lurking in the various other appropriation bills. Thank heaven, this Congress has scarcely two weeks longer to ravage the country. The general belief is that there will be no extra session.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Ex-Senator Dorsey to Go on the Stand-The Signal Service Investigation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.-It is more than prob fence as a witness. Ex Senator Dorsey, although his eyes are not wholly restored to a sound condition, has emerged into the light of day again. If Dorsey had not already determined to take the stand to explain his con nection with the alleged conspiracy, Rerdell's action will decide him to do so. He had such a step in con-templation at the first trial. The report that Gen. Brady will go on the stand has a foundation. That Miner will do as Rerdell has done, although it is the current report, is not expected by the defence. That Rerdell would coness and testify has been expected by the defence ever

since the second trial began. There is likely to be a court of Inquiry in Gen. Hazen's case, whether he wants one or not. In army circles there is a strong feeling condemning his course. A strong flavor of Howgate lingers around the concern. Howgate's rascalities were known in the bureau long before the explosion. Numbers of persons who possess ed the knowledge still occupy their old places. How-gate's rascalities would have been impossible without accomplices. Gen. Myer's life was for a considerable time embittered, and his end hastened by them. How gate's machinery in the bureau, in nearly every particular, is as he left it.

A thorough inquiry would pierce the Howgate mys-

tery and throw light on the peculiar course of "Brew-ster, Attorney General."

But should Gen. Hazen not demand a court of inquiry, or the Secretary of War take action to that end, Repri pentative Beltzhoover will early next week, in the House of Representatives, move for a committee of investiga tion. That body is in a humor to grant one. Such a course would not cut off a court of inquiry by army officers. In no case will Hazen escape the scrutiny which he feared, and hoped to avoid when he seked to

be investigated by a committee of the Senate.

On Thursday the reply of Secretary Lincoln to a resolution of the House of Representatives asking for information concerning what had been done to capture How rate was laid before that body. The Secretary replied

This department has no funds which can be used in taking measures, probably necessary, to secure the cap-ture of flowgate.

Blamarck on the Strict Observance of Sunday

From the London Standard. BERLIN, Jan. 29 .- On the policy of encouraging or enforcing a stricter observance of the Sunday in Germany, which is now part of the programme of the German Conservative party, Prince Bismarck recently and occasion to express his own opinions. In the course of his observations, the Chancellor said: "The English and American mode of Sunday observance is a terrible form of tyranny. The first time I set foot on English soil-it was in Hull-I remember that I began whistling in the streets. 'Oh, pray do not whistle,' said an Eng-lish fellow traveller. 'Not whistle?' I asked. 'Why not?' Is it prohibited?' 'No,' was the reply. 'It is not against the law, but don't you know it's the Sabbath?' I was so angry at such instolerance that I determined to leave the town at once, and I took the next steamer which conveyed me to Edinburgh."

The Chancellor unfortunately omitted to mention whether he attempted to repeat the performance on a whether he attempted to repeat the performance on a Sabbath day in the Scotch capital, or what his experiences may have been in that case. He added: "In yen eral, however, I am not an opponent of Sunday observance." A friend, who was present, remarked that Sunday in England was after all, not so bad as it was often represented. He had liked it because it was quiet. It had always done him good after the bustle and hurry of the week in London. "For my part," rejoined the Chancellor, "as a landed

proprietor I do all in my power to support the observance of the Sunday, but I would not have people legally com-pelled to keep it rigidly. I would leave every one to prepare for a future life in his own way. But there ought to be no ordinary work on Sundays, and I think so not so much on account of the Scriptural command, but because men must have time for proper repose. To the service of the State, such as the answering of telegrams matic and other urgent affairs, this does not so strictly apply."

The Assembly Chamber Celling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have examined the ceiling of the Assembly Chamber, and I find it just as firm as the High Bridge. If we wanted to throw it down quickly without blasting, the best way would be to get strong beams, resting from the floor to the centre of the rib arch, and continue from the keystone to the springer, with jackers way attached, then work away and raise the ceiling up, such then work away and raise the ceiling up, and then it would fail sure enough—in other words, it would be easier to lift it up then to force it down. Own P. Cavaxagu, 348 East Eighty-first street.

The New Nickels.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.-The Philadelphia Wint is still coining the new five-cent pieces, and is issuing them in \$20 packages. The Sub-Treasury, however, will not put any more in circulation until it is decided whether they are a violation of the requirements of law, masmuch as their value is not designated on the reverse side. ments of law, insent on the reverse side.

Quick relief from Croup is afforded by Dr. Jayne's Ex-pectorant, the old family structed; for coughe and ceids, pulmonary and bronchial afforder.

BUNDBAMA

-The most elaborate church ceiling in Peorgia is that of Christ Church, which has just been inished, after six months of diligent labor. It is made of Georgia pine, and executed in Gothic style. The cost

of the ceiling is \$4,000, being the special gift of a wealthy friend of the church. -There are in the United States fifty-two —There are in the United States http-two theological seminaries, where 2,000 young men are in training for the ministry. About 200 professors and tutors are engaged in the work of teaching these young men. There is as yet no concerted movement to com-pel the admission of isdies to the theological seminaries. Nor are there, as far as heard from, any lady applicants

—At Springfield, Mass., a revivalist named Church. A careful focusing service for a term at Grace Church. A careful footing up of the results of his mission shows that he has made one convert. The question now open for discussion is whether or not this one convert could have been won from his wicked ways by the ordinary course of effort on the part of the pastor of the church without the aid of the revivalist.

-A promising field of labor is open in consection with the Presbytery of Alabams. An evangelist is wanted to take charge of two congregations of col-ored people, and to gather into the fold such stray sheep in the neighborhood as he can induce to give heed to his welcome. There is not much worldly renown to come from this work nor a very princely salary. Yet the man who will take it and make a success of it must be in his way as talented a man as one who would serve as pastes of a stylish city church.

-When ministers of various denominations have been uniting for mutual edification or for missionary and Gospel work, the first question arising has generally been as to the basis of union. With rare missionary and Gospel work, the first question arising has generally been as to the basis of union. With rare exceptions the Apostles' Creed has been voted satisfactory, the idea being that all who could unite on that could enjoy solid Christian fellowship. But now comes a failure in this respect. The Ministerial Union of Detroit has decided by a vote of twenty-three to one that the Apostles' Creed is not sufficiently acceptable. A peculiarity of this Creed, which is not generally noticed. is that it does not disjinctly set forth the purpose for which Jesus Christ came to earth. It teaches inferen-tially that He is the Saviour of the world, but does not

-The North Church in Jersey City learned such a lesson on church fairs from the experience of the Reformed Church on the Park that it concluded not to burn its fingers in that way. The Reformed Church burn its fingers in that way. The Reformed Church earned money at a fair some weeks ago, but deposited it in Brother Boice's rotten bank. The pastor of the Morth Church asked his brethren how much was wanted. They told him shout \$600. Then he told them that it would be well, before taking much trouble to try to raise this amount by a fair, to see how much of lifthey could raise by subscription. They thought the effort was hardly worth making, yet concluded to make it, just to please the minister. The result was that a few minutes had expected to raise by the fair. The fair is postponed.

-In Rockville, Conn., certain manufacturers have erected on their factories loud-screaming steam whistles, causing much annoyance to persons who want to enjoy their morning maps. Some of the most pronounced opposition to the whistles comes from a chu deacon. The sanctuary which this good man attends has a large and noisy bell. Some of the manufacturers and their adherents are taking vengeful comfort by circulating a petition to have this bell muzzled. They say that the steam whistles acream only on the week days, which are days of work, and when noises in connection with work are legitimate. They find fault with the opinion in Rockville has not yet obtained a victory over the bell, which still sounds as of old, and is likely to continue its regular operations.

-The French call the Salvation Army "The Anglican Plague." The Rev. Dr. Pressense condemns the methods of the Army in Paris because so much pride and sectarianism have been exhibited. The Salvationists despise all other missionaries and Christian workers, and refuse to have anything to do with them. Pastor Cha ponierre warns all good Christians of the serious danger involved in introducing into religious work such a sys-tem of absolute authority as that which is engineered by Gen. Booth and his subordinates. Ignatius Loyola never organized any society whose followers were more closely and rigidly bound to obey than this Salvation Army. It is a curious bit of history to read that some of Gen ooth's most beloved and honored followers were turned ection, or collections, taken at Geneva, Switzerland. In this country, as far as can be seen, the Army officers old their subordinates in rigid subjection.

-Some of the Italians who land at Castle Garden, and immediately scatter themselves among the boarding houses in the slums, are so dirty and degraded that the impression has gone abroad that all Italians who come here from abroad are of the same class. Even experienced city missionaries have spoken of these as a hard lot, offering nothing but discouragement to Chris-tian effort. The actual condition of the work done among the Italians by Grace Church Mission shows that the general estimate of Italian morals is too low. A con-firmation service was held at Grace Chapel last Sunday, when Bishop Potter of this diocese, assisted by Bishop Seymour of Springfield, confirmed sixty Italians. The Rev. Dr. Stander, who has charge of the Italian mission, preached the sermon. He says that during the nine years' work of this mission about a thousand Italians have made profession of religion. This fact ought to be an encouragement to other Christian workers to de something for the conversion of the very degraded Ital ians who are herded together in the low tenements in a

-Many of the Connecticut clergymen have declared themselves weary of the old extempore fashi of conducting funeral services. They also raise their united voice of protestation against that time-honored stumbling block, the funeral sermon. They agree that if something like the Episcopal funeral service could be adopted the relief would be great. They would pronounce this relief would be great. They would pronounce this service in all the beauty of its simplicity, omitting the service, and leaving mourners to think well or ill of the deceased according to their fancy or their information. There are few more odious excrescences on public religious exercises than the oblituary sermon. It generally contains all the demerits of oblituary poetry without the merit of brevity, which the poetry generally has. If the deceased nian has been very wealthy, or has occupied high official station or social position, it makes little dif-ference how hard a master or how unjust a dealer he may have been, the funeral sermon varnishes his charac-ter from head to foot, and presents him as a bright and shining model for his friends to follow.

-Half a dozen ministers, assembled around a social dinner table, were discussing whether it was right or wrong for ministers to go to see the Passion Play. One remarked that he had seen it at Ober-Ammergau, and would go again if he had a chance, but that he would feel like pulling his hat over his eyes if he went in this country. Another said that he had been to many shows and entertainments both in this country and in Europe, but never felt ashamed, and never pulled his hat over his face to hide himself. Another remarked that ministers ought to go to more theatres and other shows than they do, and be able to mark the difference between the good and the bad. A fourth said that all theatrical performances were had and blasphemous, es-pecially the Passion Play, which he had not seen, and did not intend to see. Brother number five said he did not go to any of these places, but that his children went not go to any of these places, but that his children went to them, and he did not know what he should do about it. The sixth clergy man said he believed the brethren did not know half enough of what is going on in the world. He made it his rule as an educator of the public to go to everything he chose to see, and to study all he saw. Thus he was enabled to pick up many lessons about human nature which he would otherwise miss. Sometimes he went to the Stock Exchange, sometime to the dime museums, sometimes to the pigeon-shooting matches. Once he went to see a man hung, having procursed admission for the purpose in the capacity of a deputy sheriff. The other brethren shuddered a listle at this, but believed there was something in it when they heard that, after witnessing this hanging, he preached to young men the most solemn and effective sermon he ever delivered in his life.

-"Christian Courage" is the subject of "Christian Courago" is the subject of to-day's International Sunday school lesson. The orisis in the affairs of Peter and John could easily have been brought to an end by their admitting that Jeess Christ had not risen from the dead or by their promising to speak no more in His name. The occasion was one for the display of great moral firmness. Peter and John proved equal to it. They were conscious that the command which they had received to preach and to perform miracles was from on high. Therefore they were form miracles was from on high. Therefore they were form miracles was from on high. Therefore they were not afraid to face the Sanhedrim and tell the rulers of the Jews that they meant to do what they believed to be their duty in the name of God. Their courage was not of the merely boastful sort which is sometimes dis-played for the love of notoriety. They appealed to the commission which they recognized as Divine. As if commission which they recognized as Divine. As if that were not enough, they had with them the man whom they had bealed. This evidence of their Divine authority and miraculous power even the rulers found it impossible to resist, for the man was well known and the people had seen him healed. The rulers had to be satisfied with threatening them, and these, finding no just cause of punishment, were obliged to let them go. Peter and John then gladly went to join their brethren. There was a thanksgiving service of praise and prayer, and the Christian company took new praise and prayer, and the Christian company took new encouragement for the future. There was another out-pouring of the power of the Spirit of God, similar in pouring of the power of the Spirit of God, similar in some of its results to that which took place on the day of Pentecost. The brethren "spake the word of God, with boidness." At this early stage of the Christian Church every member was a worker. There was a fellowship of joy which opened the hearts of the rich toward the poor, and while they labored for one great purpose, they for the time did away with some of the ordinary selfah restgictions as to property, and "had all things comment."